

committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule.

The Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities and the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the minority has been consulted, and that there is no objection to these requests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, the gentleman is quite correct. The minority has been consulted in the case of the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities and the Committee on the Judiciary. Once again we want to applaud the majority. This consultation, we think, is a very helpful and healthful process, and we look forward to continuing it in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Hallen, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate disagrees to the amendments of the House to the bill (S. 1) "An Act to curb the practice of imposing unfunded Federal mandates on States and local governments; to strengthen the partnership between the Federal Government and State, local and tribal governments; to end the imposition, in the absence of full consideration by Congress, of Federal mandates, on State, local, the tribal governments without adequate funding, in a manner that may displace other essential governmental priorities; and to ensure that the Federal Government pays the costs incurred by those governments in complying with certain requirements under Federal statutes and regulations, and for other purposes," agrees to the conference asked by the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. ROTH, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. GLENN, and Mr. EXON to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Edwin Thomas, one of his secretaries.

REPUBLICAN CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, our Contract With America states the following:

On the first day of Congress, a Republican House will: Force Congress to live under the same laws as everyone else; cut committee staffs by one-third, and cut the congressional budget; we have done that.

It goes on to state that in the first 100 days, we will vote on the following items: A balanced budget amendment—we have done this; unfunded Mandates Legislation—we have done this; Line-item veto; a new crime bill to stop violent criminals; Welfare reform to encourage work, not dependence; family reinforcement to crack down on dead-beat Dads and protect our children; Tax Cuts from Families to lift Government's burden from middle income Americans; National Security Restoration to Protect our Freedoms; Senior Citizens; Equity Act to allow our seniors to work without Government penalty; Government regulatory reform; commonsense legal Reform to end frivolous, lawsuits, and Congressional term limits to make congress a citizen legislature.

This is our Contract With America.

PRESIDENT'S BAILOUT OF MEXICO RAISES SERIOUS CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

(Mr. VISCLOSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, if NAFTA is such a great deal, why do we have to bailout Mexico? That is the central question that must be answered before a single dime of our money is placed at risk.

The \$47 billion bailout is a raw deal for the American taxpayer. Adding insult to injury, the President is taking an end run around the people's elected Representatives and unilaterally placing our money at risk. Since Congress controls the power of the purse, this action raises serious constitutional questions.

A depression in the steel industry in the late 1970's and early 1980's cost the northwest Indiana district I represent 50,000 good jobs. The U.S. Government did not bailout a single person who had a mortgage, a car payment, or children attending college.

It is flat out wrong for our Government to bail out Mexico without first seeking permission from the American people, through their elected Representatives, whose money will be placed at risk.

Mr. Speaker, I urge acceptance of Mr. TAYLOR's privileged resolution so that we can find out what the bailout really means for the American taxpayer.

WHAT TOOK US SO LONG

(Mr. NORWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, for years, the American people have supported the line-item veto as another tool to help control Government spend-

ing and balance the budget. In November 1994, a poll showed that 77 percent of the American people supported the line-item veto, and in 1992, a poll showed a 68-percent approval rating. With this kind of support for a good Government measure, I have to ask what took us so long?

Putting aside any notion of partisan politics, the Republican majority has finally brought the line-item veto to the floor for a vote. We are delivering to the President a necessary tool to allow him to control Government spending and to kill pork-barrel politics. We are keeping our promise to the American people through our Contract With America. I hope my Democrat colleagues join me in supporting this legislation. Its time has finally come.

WELFARE QUEENS AND THE WELFARE KINGS OF THE CORPORATE WORLD

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute, and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the President's budget is already under attack, and that is par for the course. There are people who are still blasting welfare queens, but keep in mind that AFDC helps American children and food stamps help feed America's poor.

What bothers me is that no one talks about those welfare kings, with that \$51 billion in direct subsidies to corporations and \$53 billion in tax breaks for fat cats. And no one talks about welfare kings. Check this out: \$18 million for Sunkist to sell orange juice; \$5 million for Gallo to sell wine; \$1 million for M&M to sell candy; half a million to Ronald McDonald to sell chicken; and half a million to Campbell's Soups to sell V-8 juice. Beam me up, Mr. Speaker.

President Clinton's budget may not be perfect, but it has a heart and it has a soul, and that may be just a good place to start our debate from. Think about that.

TODAY'S VOTE ON THE LINE-ITEM VETO: A PRESENT FOR EX-PRESIDENT REAGAN

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, we are doing something today that the Democrat-controlled Congress over the past 40 years could never bring itself to do. Today we are going to vote on a line-item veto to give the President, regardless of party affiliation, the ability to control spending and Government growth. The President will finally be able to exert the same power that 43 Governors already enjoy—the line-item veto.

I am proud to stand here today in support of this important budget-control issue. It finally took a Republican majority to bring this item to the floor for a vote. Let us pass the line-item